

PIÑON BOARDING SCHOOL, RESIDENCE  
(Piñon Community School, Building 307)  
Navajo Route 41 North of Navajo Route 4  
Piñon  
Navajo County  
Arizona

HABS No. AZ-162-D

HABS  
ARIZ  
9-PIN,  
ID-

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

**Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Western Region  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California 94107**

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY**

**PIÑON BOARDING SCHOOL, RESIDENCE**  
(Piñon Community School, Building 307)

HABS No. AZ-162-D

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**Location:**

Navajo Route 41 North of Navajo Route 4  
Piñon  
Navajo County  
Arizona

USGS Piñon Quadrangle (7.5)  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:  
12.569950.3995320

**Present Owner:**

Piñon Community School Board  
P.O. Box 159  
Piñon, Arizona 86510

**Present Occupant:**

Abandoned

**Present Use:**

None

**Significance:**

The Residence (307) was built in 1935 as part of the educational complex at Piñon Boarding School. It is an example of the Pueblo Revival architecture that characterizes most of the PWA reservation school buildings of that era. Building 307, however, is a unique design among the group of buildings at Piñon. The wall and roof details used on the other buildings have been blended together, making 307 an "architectural summation" of the 1935 complex.

## PART I. DESCRIPTION

**EXTERIOR.** Building 307 is zig-zag shaped in plan and is an "architectural summation" of details from the other 1935 buildings. Like Building 316, 307 has random ashlar walls with the undressed rough texture of the coursed rubble walls from 301 and 302. The flat overhang roof from 316 and the flat parapet roof from 301 and 302 are combined as well. Building 307 has the standard wood lintels and copper-lined canales, and also includes a porch with log columns. The flat overhang roof covers a garage with double wood doors. The garage door lintel is actually one of the ceiling joists which extend beyond the side wall similar to vigas.

**INTERIOR.** The two bedroom, one bath house has exposed wood vigas in the ceilings, wood floors, plaster walls, and a stone fireplace. There is a basement below the kitchen where stove fuel was probably stored. Features atypical of PWA residential floor plans are the garage and a porch projecting off the side of one bedroom. Usually porches extended across the front of the house.

**MECHANICAL.** The residence was heated by radiators in each room, all of which have been remove. In the photo of the south elevation, one radiator can be seen lying in the grass near the front door.

## PART II. HISTORY

The Residence (307) was probably reserved for the principal since there were accommodations for teachers in the Staff Quarters (302). Building 307 served as a health clinic as long ago as 1954 when drawings show plans to enclose the porch for use as a waiting room. [Fig. 1] Local residents refer to the residence as the "Jimmy Shorty House".

## PART III. SOURCES

Parman, Donald L. The Navajos and the New Deal  
New Haven: Yale University Press, 1976

Threinen, Ellen. 1981. The Navajos and the BIA: A Study of Government Buildings on the Navajo Reservation. American Indian Engineering, Inc./Bureau of Indian Affairs

Other possible sources:

Indians at Work. Issues published from 1934 - 1936.

Bureau of Indian Affairs - Gallup. Floor Plan.

**PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION**

The Piñon Boarding School Residence Building 307 (HABS No. AZ-162-D) is a mitigative recording not required by the Memorandum of Agreement which mandated HABS documentation of Buildings 316, 301, and 302. The preparer of the Piñon documentation saw the architectural significance of Building 307 as a crucial contribution to any report on the 1935 group of buildings.

This a cursory report which complements the preceding documentation under HABS No. AZ-162 for Piñon Boarding School.

Prepared by: Brett A. Hobza

Affiliation: Lescher and Mahoney/DLR Group, Architects Phoenix, Arizona

Date: July 1993

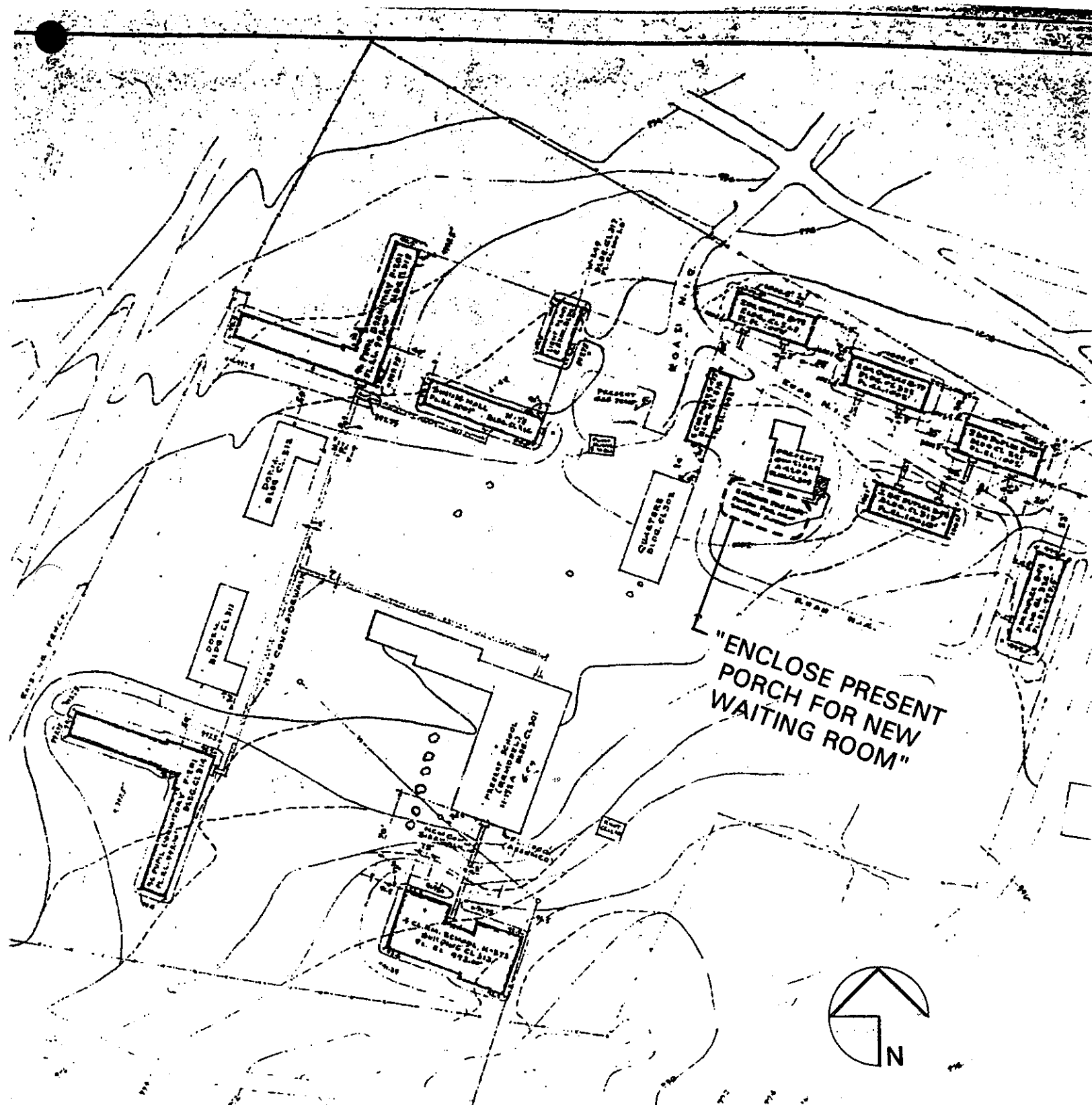


Figure 1. Site Plan - 1954

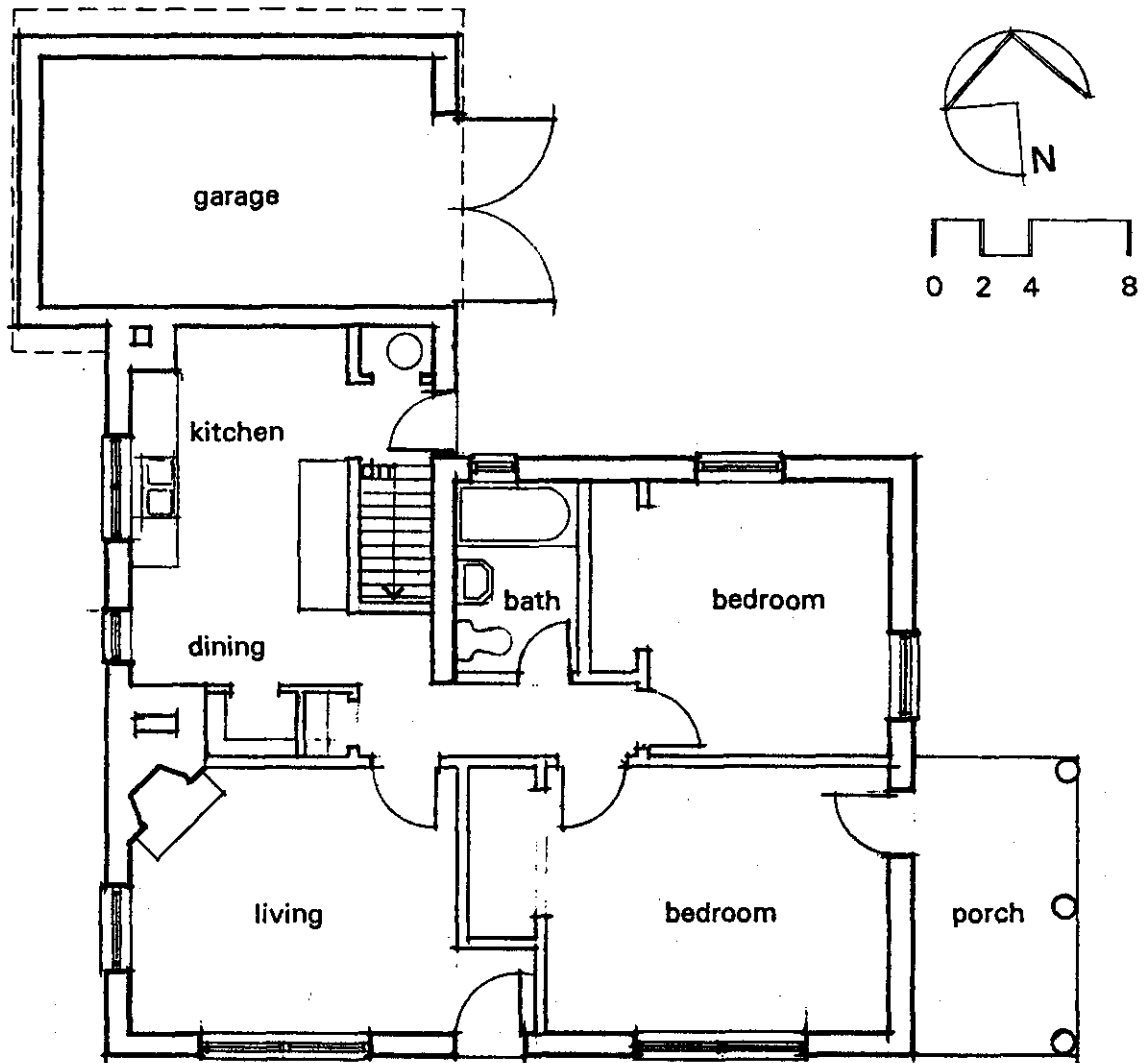


Figure 2. Floor Plan - Building 307

DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIONS (Pages 4-5)

PINON BOARDING SCHOOL  
RESIDENCE (Bldg. 307)  
HABS No. AZ-162-D  
(Page 6)

- FIGURE 1      Photocopy of civil engineering drawing (original drawing located at Navajo Area Bureau of Indian Affairs, Window Rock, Arizona).  
DETAIL OF 1954 SITE PLAN, SHEET 07.
- FIGURE 2      Photocopy of drawing (original drawing located at Lescher and Mahoney/DLR Group, Phoenix Office). Brett A. Hobza, Delineator.  
September 1993.  
FLOOR PLAN OF BUILDING 307.